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No. 187. Collected, Burnside, Nov. 7, 1906. 100 ft. Sandy bank in Laurel Park. Good material.

No. 200. Collected, W. Hartford, Dec. 2, 1906. 400 ft. Roadside. Reservoir 3.

C. undulata (L.) W. & M.

No. 2. Newington Mt., March 14, 1902. 200 ft. Good sized fertile material.

No. 6. Pomperaug Valley, June 9, 1906. Young plants, male heads, first flowering.

No. 188. Burnside, Nov. 7, 1906. Laurel Park. Sterile plants, usual form.

No. 188b, Fertile plants, same station.

No. 199. West Hartford, Nov. 25, 1906. 350 ft. On old stump, edge of swamp. Reservoir 5. Ad *v. minor* M. & M.

C. crispa James.

No. 173. Burnside, Oct. 30, 1906. School street, woods. Bank of stream in woods. Capsules barely mature. Hartford, Conn.

[Read at the S. M. C. Meeting, Columbia University, Dec. 28, 1906.]

NOTES ON RECENT LITERATURE.

A. J. Grout.

Conocephalum conicum (L.) Dum. Ever since I was a mere lad I have noticed a pungent aromatic smell when traveling along the moist banks of our Vermont brooks in search of trout or other pleasures, but I never discovered the source of the odor until this last summer (1906). The odor is given forth by the crushed or bruised fronds of *Conocephalum*. So far as I can ascertain this remarkably strong odor is not mentioned in any of our American works. Lett, in his "Hepaticae of the British Islands," mentions the odor as comparable to that of bergamot. In Beihefte Bot. Centralblatt, **18**^{1}: 327–408, 1905, Eugene Bolleter has a very complete account of exhaustive studies on this plant; of this paper we hope soon to have a full review. In it the odor of the plant is mentioned but it is called "turpentine-like." Go and smell and take your choice between turpentine and bergamot. To me it is like neither, but has the pungency of turpentine without its quality.

* * *

We are interested to note an article to help beginners in the study of mosses, entitled, "A Word for Mosses," by Prof. Wm. W. Bailey, in the Am. Botanist, Dec. 1905. After a rather brief description of methods of study and an explanation of some common terms, comes a list of living students of merit We recommend the perusal of this list to those who wish to become familiar with the methods of the editor of the Am. Botanist, for we attribute some obvious peculiarities of this list to the editor, not the author.

* * *

FREAKS IN MOSSES. In the Bot. Gazette for August, 1903, Miss Mary C. Bliss, of Wellesley College, records finding an archegonium of *Polytrichum juniperinum* with two distinct venters, one above the other, "The lower venter containing two nuclei, which probably represent the egg cell and the ventral canal cell. The upper venter has doubtless been developed from the first neck canal cell and contains but a single nucleus. Directly above in the neck of the archegonium, is the nucleus of second neck canal cell." In the February number of the same journal W. C. Coker recorded the occurrence of two egg cells in the archegonium of *Mnium*. From her own observations and those of Coker, Miss Bliss is led to believe that the neck canal cells are potential egg cells and that the egg cell and the neck canal cell have a common origin.

In Hedwigia, **45**: 178–181, plates X and XI, Prof. W. Mönkemeyer describes a number of interesting freaks, such as a cleistocarpous capsule of *Bryum saxonicum* Hagen, and ten abnormal capsules of *Pogonatum nanum*, varying from completely cleistocarpous to operculate, with traces of a peristome attached to the lid. All the capsules of *Pogonatum* were globular and had broken through the calyptra instead of tearing it off at the base and carrying it up on the top of the sporophyte in the normal way. The setae were bent and the hairy calyptras attached to their sides. Those of our readers who have read Dr. R. H. True's paper on "The Physiology of the Sphorophyte of Funaria and Mnium" in Beihefte Bot. Centralblatt, **19**^{1}: 34–44, 1905, will at once infer that the entire abnormality may have followed from the breaking through the archegonium by the young sporophyte and the consequent inability to develop, like that found by True in *Funaria* when the operculum was removed.

A full account of Dr. True's conclusions will be published in the BRYOLOGIST at an early date.

Prof. Mönkemeyer also records several cases of two or three peristomes in the same capsule, one above the other. In one case in *Dicranella varia*, between the urn and the true operculum was inserted a hollow cylinder; inside this were two peristomes attached by the slender tips of the teeth, the upper being inverted with its base attached to the lid In a specimen of *Bryum saxonicum* there were two hollow cylinders, one above the other, and three peristomes, the two upper being inverted. In the same species there was also a case like that of *Dicranella varia* but the upper portions of the teeth were not so fully developed. There was an annulus at the base of each peristome but the inner peristome appeared as merely a delicate yellow membrane.

* * *

In the Botanical Gazette for August, 1906, Prof. George J. Peirce, of Stanford University, gives an account of work with "Anthoceros and its Nostoc Colonies," and of field observations on the same. He concludes that *Anthoceros* does better without the *Nostoc*, although he is not able to say that the *Nostoc* is parasitic.

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Authentic and complete lists of mosses of limited areas are of great value and interest to the systematist, and also to the general biologist by reason of the bearing of plant distribution on the problems of evolution. Of course absolutely complete lists are an impossibility, they can only be complete as far as recorded observation goes.

The Bryophyta and Pteridophyta of Pennsylvania by the late Prof. T. C. Porter, edited by Dr. John K. Small, and published by Ginn & Co., is one of the best of such lists. It seems unfortunate to the reviewer that certain changes in nomenclature have been made, but in spite of the efforts for uniformity there seems still to be a wide variation of taste in the matter.

In Rhodora for May, 1906, A. LeRoy Andrews gives a list of "New England Sphagnaceae," with some notes. It may be of interest to our readers to know that Mr. Andrews has consented to take up work on the *Sphagnaceae* with the Sullivant Moss Chapter on his return from Europe.

In the same journal for July, 1906, Mr. J. Franklin Collins gives a similar list of the *Buxbaumiaceae*, *Georgiaceae* and *Polytrichaceae*. Some reference to this list has previously been made in the BRYOLOGIST (**9**: 101) and some extracts from his notes reprinted.

NORTH AMERICAN MUSCI PLEUROCARPI ISSUED BY DR. A. J. GROUT.

JOHN M. HOLZINGER.

Century III of this splendid series, published by Dr. A. J. Grout, Brooklyn, N. Y., has just been completed, the twelfth fascicle having come to hand at this writing, Jan. 30, 1907. A general review of this work is demanded at this juncture, both on account of the work itself, and also for the benefit of all whom the author has placed under lasting obligation by his long sustained, painstaking effort on this collection. This work has been made possible only by much self-sacrifice on the part of the author, aided, to be sure, by the generous help of all contributors in various parts of the country. The writer has himself contributed a number of species, but he knows from experience that the collecting is the lesser task by far. Dr. Grout's work looms up larger and larger in my appreciation as I experience what such a publication requires in time and sacrifice of pleasures and neglect of routine and social duties.

This twelfth fascicle is accompanied by a four page pamphlet, more than three pages of which are taken up with the alphabetical enumeration of Centuries I–III. The last page contains critical notes on Century III. Similar lists of notes accompanied Centuries I and II after each was completed. Since this series is widely distributed among European as well as American bryologists, there is no doubt that further critical notes and certainly critical references will appear in the future in bryological journals on both sides of the Atlantic. No scientific institution in which work along this line is carried on can well afford to do without this help. Time and lack of space forbid the enumeration of the new and rarer species so far distributed. Any one really interested and desiring to know about this collection will surely